

SOUTH AFRICAN RADIO LEAGUE

SARL NEWS SUNDAY 8 FEBRUARY 2004

You are listening to Amateur Radio Station ZS6SRL of the South African Radio League, the National society for Amateur Radio in South Africa, with a news bulletin that is broadcast every Sunday at 08:15 Central Africa Time (CAT) in Afrikaans and at 08:30 CAT in English.

This bulletin is also available on the website of the SARL at www.sarl.org.za and on packet bulletin boards.

SILENT KEYS

It is with regret that we have to announce that Johnny Bekker, ZS6RG, passed away during the early hours of Wednesday 28th January 2004 at the age of 86. Johnny was found in front of his HF radio at the time. Our deepest sympathies go to his children, grandchildren, great grandchild, relatives and friends.

Koot Theron, ZS6TH, of Heidelberg passed away on Thursday the 5th of February 2004. He was a member of Sasolburg Radioclub for years. He was blind but very active on the air until multiple sclerosis took hold of him. His condition deteriorated over the last year or so until he became confined to his bed and his wife Susan had to take care of him day and night. He sold all his equipment when he could no longer be active on the air. Our deepest sympathies go to his wife, other relatives and friends.

(PAUSE).

In the news today:

CANDIDATES NOMINATED FOR THE SARL COUNCIL

PROGRESS WITH RADIO REGULATIONS

THE SUNSPOT SITUATION

SARL KID'S DAY AND CLUB NEWS

Stay tuned for more detail on these and other news items.

Visit the SARL Web site or call the SARL office which is open on weekdays from 09:00 to 13:00 at 011 675 2393 for details on how to join, book sales and all related amateur radio activities.

SARL NEWS invites clubs and individuals to submit news items of interest to amateurs on the web site of the SARL, which is www.sarl.org.za/newsinbox.asp not later than the Thursday preceding the bulletin date. It would be appreciated if you could do it in both Afrikaans and English.

You are listening to ZS6SRL.

The news follows in detail.

CANDIDATES NOMINATED FOR THE SARL COUNCIL

Here are the names of the candidates nominated to serve on the SARL Council: Andrew Roos, ZS1AN; Barry Murrell, ZR2DX; Bill Norval, ZS5KD; Dave Perry, ZS1SG; Dennis Green, ZS4BS; Derek Gravett, ZS6DDG; Graham Hartlett, ZS6GJH; Henry Chamberlain, ZS1AAZ; John Fielding, ZS5JF; John Watson, ZS6ABJ; Kobus Conradie, ZR6D; Mat Greyvensteyn, ZS1MJJ; Olivier van Staden, ZS1OLI; Peter Hers, ZS6PHD; Rassie Erasmus, ZS1YT; Richard Seddon, ZS2CLI.

Since 16 candidates have been nominated for 15 vacancies, a postal ballot will be held. The ballot papers will in due course be distributed to all SARL members together with the notice, agenda and reports etc. for the forthcoming SARL AGM.

PROGRESS WITH RADIO REGULATIONS

Graham Hartlett, ZS6GJH, reported at the SARL Council meeting held on Saturday 24 January 2004 that three departments at ICASA ie. Legal, Spectrum and Licensing, had accepted the new proposed radio regulations and that the regulations were now on the agenda for the ICASA Council meeting on the 17th February. If necessary the regulations will be published on the 19th February and comments from the public invited. After any comments from the public had been taken into account, a final document will be prepared for submission to the Minister's office. It is expected that this will happen during the course of April.

SARL KIDS DAY

The first of two SARL Kid's Day activities takes place on Saturday 14 February 2004. The activity starts at 09:00 CAT and ends two hours later with operation on 20, 40 and 2 metres. The exchange is name, age, location and favourite music artist.

The following clubs will be giving young people the opportunity to talk via amateur radio to other young people: The East Rand ARC will be on the air from the East Rand Mall; The Border Radio Club will be running two stations in East London, one at Hemmingway's Casino and one at Vincent Park shopping centre: The Bloemfontein RAC will be on the air from the Langenhoven Park Farmers Market and the Sandton ARC will also be on the air.

SARL HF FIELD DAY

The first leg of the 2004 SARL HF Field Day will commence at 12:00 CAT on Saturday 14 February and end 24 hours later. Activity will be on 20, 40, 80 and 160 metres using CW and phone. The rules for the Field Day as well as the Kids Day are available on the SARL website at www.sarl.org.za and were also sent out in HF Happenings 81a. Start now on your final preparations for next weekend.

RADIO ZS

The editor is busy completing the January/February issue of Radio ZS and it will be available on the SARL website by the end of the week. The editor extends an invitation to members to submit articles for publication. It can be sent in MSWord or pdf format to radiozs@sarl.org.za.

THE SUNSPOT SITUATION

Propagation conditions, which are directly influenced by sunspots, are somewhat erratic lately. For the latest news on sunspot activity we bring you this condensed extract from the ARRL news:

Solar seer Tad "Shooting Star" Cook, K7RA, Seattle, Washington, reports: Sunspots are back in view. Last week's update reported two days with no sunspots, but this week the average daily sunspot number rose 28 points to 66,7. This is nice for short-term HF propagation, but now that January has passed, a look at monthly averages shows a clear decline in the sunspot cycle.

Over the past 13 months average daily sunspot numbers dipped below 100 several times but were never below 82,6 until December and January, when they dropped to 75,7 and 62,3. Look for declining solar activity over the next few years, with the predicted bottom of the solar cycle still three years off.

Right now sunspot 551 is moving into the center of the visible solar disk, the place where sunspots have the most effect on earth. Geomagnetic conditions at mid-day today were unsettled, but unless the active region around sunspot 551 spews forth, conditions should be normal over the next few days. Predicted solar flux February 6-9 is 105-110. Solar flux values should peak around 130 toward the middle of the month.

CLUB NEWS

From the East Rand Radio Club:

Firstly' the club will be holding a committee meeting on 13 February at 19:00 at the club house in Springs. Members unable to attend are requested to phone Johanna Harris at by 011 814 2121.

Secondly amateurs from the east rand are invited to come and enjoy the SARL Kids Day on 14 February at East Rand Mall. Tune in to East Rand Repeater on 145,675 MHz for directions. They start setting up at 07:30 Saturday Morning 14 February and will appreciate your hands and feet. The station will close at 11:00. See you there!!

ACTIVITIES IN WHICH TO PARTICIPATE

14 February - Kids Day; Also on 14 February - SARL HF Field day.

The SARL invites you to listen to Amateur Radio Mirror International on 17 815, 9 750, and 7 082 kHz and 145,625 MHz in East London, 145,650 in Durban 145,750 MHz in Pretoria and 438,800 in the Sandton area. A repeat broadcast can be heard on Mondays at 21:00 CAT on 3 215 kHz.

Telkom and Sentech sponsor ARMI.

This then brings us to the end of today's bulletin, which was compiled by George, ZS6NE, and read byfrom..... as a service to radio amateurs, short wave listeners and electronic enthusiasts.

You have been listening to ZS6SRL and thank you for having joined us. Also many thanks to those persons who supply news for our bulletins and the amateurs who relay the bulletins so regularly.

Goodbye everyone.

/EX